

**KRNV-DT & KENV-DT  
ISSUES & PROGRAMMING QUARTERLY REPORT**

**EDUCATION**

**QUARTER 3, 2016**

**Representative Weeks**

**July 11 through July 17, 2016**

**August 15, 2016 through August 23, 2016**

**September 12 through September 18, 2016**

**Duration:**

<b>News 4 Today</b>	<b>1:30</b>
<b>News 4 @ 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>1:30</b>
<b>News 4 @ 12:00 a.m.</b>	<b>1:30</b>

**Date: August 15 & 16, 2016**

**Description: Nursing students help local women in need**

CAAW, otherwise known as the Committee to Aid Abused Women, provides services in an effort to put an end to family violence in our area.

Local nursing student, Justine Wallace, says "'I know I take for granted the life I have and the opportunities that I've been given. And it really means something to be able to give back to the people who haven't had the same experiences as me but hopefully have a similar run."

Students at the Orvis School of Nursing were assigned the task of helping a vulnerable population in northern Nevada.

"We found CAWW, which is the Committee to Aid Abused Women, and we found there was a definite need and help and there's a definite lack of resources and a miss match in what the women need versus what they're getting and receiving and need," says student Mackenzie Trotter. What started as a simple project quickly turned into something much more meaningful.

"It's just something we stumbled across looking online," says Wallace. "And once we realized they worked with the domestic violence victims in northern Nevada, we knew that was an organization we wanted to work with."

CAAW works to end family violence in Washoe County. They offer a variety of resources, something the students say many women are unaware of.

"We actually put together a tri-fold filled with resources. We have everything from domestic violence victim counseling as well as child care, dental services, mental health services and we found all of them at little to no cost," says Wallace.

While there is a need to help women in northern Nevada, students say through their project they've been able to reach those in need all over.

Trotter says, "It's really awesome because there are women from all over in our community, from Carson to California, local, and we're actually able to help them and provide actual current and pertinent resources they don't even know exist and most don't know they are low cost or free to them."

While to some it may seem like just a piece of paper, the group says this pamphlet will hopefully change lives in our community for years to come.

"To know that we could have an impact that's longer lasting than just a day, this pamphlet will continue to be passed to the women and the kids, for hopefully as long as the resources are up to date, and I think it's wonderful," says Wallace.

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	<b>Duration:</b>
<b>News 4 Today</b>	<b>:30</b>
<b>News 4 @ 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>:30</b>
<b>News 4 @ 12:00 a.m.</b>	<b>:30</b>

**Date: August 16 & 17, 2016**

**Description: Air conditioning out of service at Pine Middle School**

Several classes at Pine Middle School are without air conditioning for the start of the school year. The HVAC system is not working in about 20 classrooms. The system has been out since school started, and parts are difficult to find because of the age of the school.

Staff have put fans and portable swamp coolers in the rooms, though a parent told News 4 that the situation has been uncomfortable for students.

Replacement parts have been ordered, and the Washoe County School District said it hopes to have them installed by next week.

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	<b>Duration:</b>
<b>News 4 Today</b>	<b>3:45</b>
<b>News 4 @ 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>3:45</b>
<b>News 4 @ 12:00 a.m.</b>	<b>3:45</b>

**Date: August 18 & 19, 2016**

**Description: Spanish Springs sees student spike**

Teachers and administrators at Spanish Springs Elementary School are having to scramble to accommodate an unexpected spike in student enrollment this year.

With the school already over capacity, it's been a real challenge to find space for students and staff. School district officials say the elementary school could have to go to a multi-track schedule as early as next year.

"Their projections had us at this number that we are today, 850, projected in 2021," Spanish Springs Principal Jim Verdi said.

Verdi says just two days before opening the school's doors for the 2016-2017 school year, quick and drastic changes had to be made to accommodate the number of students.

"A couple of weeks before school started, we were only at about 780 kids, and then all of a sudden we ended up with 60 then 70 more kids coming through the door," he said. Many of the surprise students are first-graders, but with six full classes, the school had to create a seventh class.

"Our first-graders were 24 in a classroom, only supposed to be 17-1, and we were at 24; that's just too high," said Verdi.

But creating another class in 48 hours with no teacher and no room is no easy task.

"We don't have the space already, so we were really trying to come up with some creative ideas of how to fit them into our school," said Verdi.

The solution, putting 20 first-graders in a mobile classroom and asking fifth-grade science teacher Michelle Comstock on the Friday before schools started to teach first grade instead.

Comstock says she had to quickly switch gears but the students are what's most important.

"Teachers, we are flexible, and we will adjust. It's about the kids and moving me out to the mobile was OK, but moving the other teachers out of the classroom affected other kids," said Comstock. Those three special-education teachers who used the mobile space for an office and small group classes now sit with three desks in a storage closet.

Special-education students are being taught with partitions in the open quad where students and faculty constantly walk by.

"We see so many of our schools which have had to utilize some of these other spaces that were never supposed to be classrooms," Washoe County Schools Chief Operating Officer Pete Etchart said.

Etchart says Spanish Springs Elementary is one of many schools in the district making the best of less-than-ideal learning environments, simply put, because of a lack of space.

"When we are at full capacity as a district at elementary, middle and high schools, any deviation from those projections really causes a lot of concern," said Etchart.

Etchart says the district uses data from growth experts to try and predict when and where students will be enrolling. He says the first week of school at Spanish Springs shows it's not an exact science.

"We didn't predict them having to go to a multi-track year around calendar for several years, but we didn't anticipate the enrollment they have this year until 2020 or 2021. We predicted the enrollment they have now," said Etchart.

Verdi says with 100 more students than last year, the school now has four different lunch periods. It's a way of fitting the students into the cafeteria safely, but there is a downside to the accommodation.

"What that does to us as administrators, both of us have to take more of our time to monitor and supervise, and less time helping teachers in the classroom," said Verdi.

There are 16 elementary schools in the district that could be going to a year-round multi-track schedule next year to ease overcrowding. The threshold for multi-track, a school has to be at 120 percent capacity and/or projected to be for three years. On a multi-track schedule, four groups of students and staff alternate attendance throughout the year.

The schools that could go to a multi-track schedule are:

Beasley, Booth, Corbett, Gomes, Huffaker, Hunter Lake, Loder, Mitchell, Silver Lake, Smithridge, Spanish Springs, Stead, Sun Valley, Taylor, Van Gorder and Westergard.

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**Duration:**

**News 4 Today**

**2:30**

**News 4 @ 5:00 p.m.**

**2:30**

**News 4 @ 12:00 a.m.**

**2:30**

**Date: August 18 & 19, 2016**

**Description: Gov. Sandoval, Mayors Schieve and Martini endorse raising sales tax for school funding**

Gov. Brian Sandoval, Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve and Sparks Mayor Geno Martini are endorsing Washoe County Question 1. The ballot initiative would allow a .54 percent sales tax increase to build new schools and fund repairs for old ones.

"We've got some schools in terrible, terrible shape," Martini said. "They needed work when I went to them in the '50s and '60s, so it's time. We've got to get this done."

Both Martini and Schieve recognize that many schools in the district need repairs. Schieve said,

"We still have schools that have asbestos in them. We have 200 temporary modular facilities that are, quite honestly, I think they pose some health concerns."

Sandoval chimed in on the conditions of Washoe County Schools as well. He released a statement, which read in part, "WC-1 will not only provide the needed resources to build new schools and modernize others, it will bring out the best in our students and ensure prosperity in the future."

The Reno mayor said the outcome of the vote on WC-1 could impact the future of northern Nevada as a whole. Schieve said, "We're on this incredible trajectory here in the city of Reno and schools

are playing a big role in that. And so if we want to look to this future of economic development and really continue this momentum, schools are going to be essential."

Northern Nevada's economy is a big reason Martini is also backing the initiative. He said, "People will not move their businesses here if you have a poor education system."

Both mayors said they understand some people oppose the ballot initiative because they may be skeptical of decisions the Washoe County School board has made in the past. They said they're confident there will be more accountability with the new school board.

If WC-1 does not pass, both mayors believe Washoe County's education system will only become worse.

"You look at this multi-track type of school and children getting home at 7:00 or 8:00 at night." Schieve said. "Or what about children who get home at 12:00 in the afternoon when the parents are at work?"

All three of the Nevada leaders said, first and foremost, they're endorsing WC-1 because of the children it will affect. "This is Nevada's children," Schieve said, "And we need to make sure we're doing all that we can to foster our children."

Martini said, "It's about our kids. It's about the future of what they're going to do here, so we can't let them down."

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	<b>Duration:</b>
<b>News 4 Today</b>	<b>1:30</b>
<b>News 4 @ 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>1:30</b>
<b>News 4 @ 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>1:30</b>
<b>News 4 Nightly @ 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>1:30</b>
<b>News 4 @ 11:00 p.m.</b>	<b>1:30</b>

**Date: September 13 & 14, 2016**

**Description: Strong emotions from upset parents unfold before the WCSD Board of Trustees**

Several dozen upset parents made their feelings known to the Washoe County School board. They spoke during public comment.

They're unhappy with the District's plan to change the school schedule at Westergard Elementary to a year-round, multi-track schedule.

The District recently announced the change telling parents the school's enrollment projections reached 120 percent of capacity. The District said that number is an automatic threshold triggering the schedule change based on factors, including safety.

But parent Kim Nunley said, "I feel like a computer generated number should not make a decision." Stephanie Hanna echoed her concern telling the board, "That is a one size fits all solution." She added, " It is a problem that is not one size fits all."

Many broke down into tears in explaining the disruption to families the change will cause. Chris Huff stopped speaking at one point as emotions overcame him. In trying to hold back tears he said, "I apologize for my emotions." Some trustees responded by telling him, "It's alright. Breathe." Huff suggested the problem could temporarily be addressed by allowing parents to seek variances to other schools. He said right now, other schools are turning down variance requests from Westergard parents.

Many asked the Board to consider other solutions. They told trustees they did not believe the projections. Nunley said, "If you go and visit Westergard, you will see it is not overcrowded." The parents said the District should have given the school and them more time in implementing the change. They asked for at least one more year on the traditional schedule before making the change. They described the schedule changes as not only disruptive to families but would impede learning as well.

The Board did not take any action as Chairman Angie Taylor explained, "We cannot even discuss an issue that is not posted on our agenda." But she said the Board knew the group wanted to make their comments known. She said the Board set the final public comment to 4 PM so parents as well as some faculty could speak.

She added the item will be on the October 11th agenda.

Westergard would join Spanish Springs, Double Diamond and Brown Elementary in adopting a multi-track schedule.

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